

# Co-creation, sea level changes and climate adaptation



## *Summary*

*The management of low-lying coastal areas and adaptation to sea level changes is a question of keeping people safe and securing societal value. But this also introduces the possibility of dealing with other challenges as part of a single co-creation process.*

*As part of a WaterCAP Taskforce, a number of municipalities, water companies, consultants, emergency services and Central Denmark Region met in Germany and the Netherlands to explore the ways in which they are protecting low-lying coasts that are threatened by floods and at the same time securing the societal value of these coastlines. In one specific project in the Dutch Town of Delfzijl, a local beach was created, access to the beach was improved and a contaminated site was treated - all part of a co-creation process that involved the local, regional and national stakeholders, each with their own challenges and aims. The result is a great example of a climate-resilient solution that incorporates a multifunctional design and a strong sense of ownership by the local community.*

## *Main Benefits*

### **General aspects of co-creation**

- » Local win-win solutions across sectors
- » Active involvement of locals through a strong strategic plan
- » A strong sense of ownership by the local community
- » Increased funding possibilities

### **Economic/job creation**

- » Long-term solution that solves several challenges
- » Funding from more stakeholders creates economy of scale - bigger joint solutions are possible
- » The budget becomes flexible when solving more challenges

### **Innovative aspects**

- » Targets more than one challenge
- » Makes the community ask questions, which increases innovation and forces the owner of the problem to think in a multifunctional and holistic way

## *Boosters for Implementation*

- » Developing tools describing how to involve and make co-creation. A guide/handbook on how to manage processes that can help make co-creation easier
- » Understanding when to have an open process and when to invite a closed group of stakeholders
- » Provide examples of the economic and societal benefits of making co-creation processes

## *Barriers for implementation in Denmark*

- » There is a strong silo mentality with people not used to combining different challenges.
- » The owner of the problem is normally a public authority official with a technical background who has no experience in managing co-creation processes

## *How to overcome barriers*

- » Think holistically and ask questions inside the organisation
- » Always look for win-win solutions by viewing the challenge from more than one perspective
- » Educate the project managers of public organisations in how to deal with more than one challenge or more than one possibility
- » Loosen power: By involving people, you hand over power to the stakeholders

## *Policy Recommendations*

- » Encourage new projects to include climate adaptation
- » Always encourage climate adaptation projects to include not only protection but other aspects too
- » Be flexible and be ready to hand over power to stakeholders

### *More Information*

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